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Driving a Connected Car with Apple Watch and Android Wear

Mobile Development   **Apple Watch**   **Android Wear**   **Connected Car**

Project

While the Apple Watch announcement left much of the public excited, many were confused about the true value of these devices. ELEKS decided to clear up some of that confusion, undertaking an experiment with Tesla Model S, to show how third party developers can create unique business value from wearables.

Industry

Automotive.

Challenge

Our developers sought to take basic Tesla Model S connected car functions, such as checking charge status or starting the airco remotely, and integrate them into the smartwatch. We aimed to improve the driver's experience by making these processes easier than with a smartphone. The ultimate goal was to make the interactions invisible.

Solution

We created a meaningful experience by applying each device's smartwatch-specific interactions, such as watchface, context notifications and force touch, to the most frequently used car features. This step eliminated the need for any extra interactions.

Our solution, for example, enables checking the charge level right from the Android Wear watchface. We also created several use cases for less essential features and turned them into actionable, context-aware notifications. For example, we integrated with weather forecast services to allow drivers to close the sunroof with a single click in the event of expected rain.

Results

In spite of some serious limitations inherent to both Android Wear and Apple Watch OS platforms, we created applications that perfectly line up with the concept of smart watches and let users access critical information about the car and allowed them to manage specific tasks faster than ever before.

Technology

#Apple_Watch

We were able to deliver all these features with the first, highly limited version of the Apple Watch OS.

#Android_Wear

We tapped into rich Android-specific features such as watchface, notifications timeline and the platform's customizable UI.

#Tesla_API

In order to integrate with the car, we used the reverse-engineered Tesla API and protocols from their mobile app.

Disclaimer

Tesla Motors Inc. was not involved and did not endorse ELEKS Ltd. in this experiments.

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